Badghis

Badghis is one of the four provinces, which have been identified for distribution of quality seed and fertilizer with the assistance of Government of Switzerland. There was a plan to distribute 25 MT wheat seed in the 22 villages forming a cluster. Due to drought the village communities approached the FAO-Crops to make available seed of improved varieties of maize to take the advantage of the constantly decreasing water availability for irrigation. Due to shortage of water they did not want to grow rice and hence, maize was considered as an alternative. The FAO-Crops arranged transfer of 3,250 kgs maize seed of improved varieties from other regions on emergency basis and made available to more than 277 farmers of 22 villages. Though, demand was more, but it was difficult to meet all the demand, due to shortage of seed, funds and time. To reach the maximum number of farmers in some cases only 10-kg seed was handed over to one farmer.

Gramser

Large number of returnee farmers have come back and restarted the agriculture. It was the main reason for selection of the district under this project. The list of beneficiaries was provided by the UNHCR, Kandahar. It was planned to distribute 25 MT wheat seed in Oct/Nov 2000. However, due to severe drought and unreliable availability of water for irrigation of wheat crop the farmers decided to grow more maize and pulses to take advantage of the present flow of water in river Helmond. Community approached the FAO to provide the seeds of improved varieties of maize and pulses. FAO-Crops advised MCI to distribute following quantity of seed along with DAP and Urea fertilizer.

Crop	Quantity (MT)
Maize	10.00
Green-gram	5.00
	15.00

More than 171 returnee farmers received the seed.

4. **Status of the Seed Related Sub Projects Submitted to Donors**

Table- 6

Status of the Seed Related Sub Projects Submitted to Donors

S. No.	Project	Budget (US$)	Status
01	AFG/00/AO4/A9C/12- Stabilizing Rural Food Supply through National Crop Sector Input Supply Capacity.	440,000	Approved. Operational from 01-07-2000.
02	Distribution of Quality Seed of Improved Varieties & Fertilizer in Food Deficit Areas (Phase-II)	335,000	Approved. Operational from 01-01-2000.
03	OSRO/AFG/001/NOR- Rubb Hall.	167,856	Approved. Operational from 01-05-2000.
04	Family Food Production Project	220,000	Under active consideration
05	DROUGHT TASK FORCE Livelihoods Strategy (Crops)	5,500,000	Under consideration
06	Distribution of the Wheat Seed Minikits along with Fertilizer to Poor Farmers of the most Difficult and Inaccessible Areas of Northern and Central Regions of Afghanistan.	60,0000	Do
07	Food-for-seed- AFG/CD/102/2000/0101-2001-2401-1601-801/FFS/FAO	1,860,000 (6000 MT Food Wheat)	Approved. Operational from 01-01-2000.
08	Food for Work to Strengthen the Irrigation Facilities at Various Foundation Seed Units (FSU's)	108,616.86 (299.22 MT Food Wheat)	Under Consideration
09	Food for Work for Reforestation of 7 ha. Pistachio Forest at Badghis.	7,795.78 (21.476MT Food Wheat)	Do

5. **CSAs Signed During the Period under Report.**

During the period under report the following CSAs were signed with several IPs to produce, procure, process and distribute contracted quantity of seed. As per the contractual obligation IPs receive US $ 55/ MT for each MT seed produced and sold. Besides, formal agreements the informal agreements are entered into with communities/ Shura, Dept. of Agriculture and ISE to produce large quantity of

seeds even more than under the formal arrangements. In such cases the IPs receive no financial assistance except technical advice, certification material and in some cases food wheat under Food-for-seed scheme.

Table- 7

Detail of the CSAs

Summer 2000

IP	Project Number	Value of the Contract US$
IRC	SP/S/KHOST/IRC/00	6,050
ISRA	SP/S/KKL/ISRA/00	15,125
MCI	SP/S/HQUZ/MCI/00	12,375
VARA	SP/S/NIMROOZ/VARA/00	4,125
TOTAL	SUMMER	37,675

The validity of the CSAs signed for production of summer crop seeds is up to June 2001 while the NTE of the present project is up to 31-12-00. It is difficult to adjust the growing and planting of crops according to NTE of the project. Therefore, attention of the IPs was drawn towards the following two clauses of the CSA while signing the contract:

If due to natural calamity or any other valid reason(s) the IP could not carry out the obligation of production and distribution of required quantity of seed, the financial assistance shall be reduced accordingly (but not to exceed 50% of the agreed service charge). This shall be done with consultation between the IP and the FAO.

Any matter arising out of the execution or interpretation of this Agreement shall be subject to consultations between IP and the FAO.

Therefore, for any reason if FAO-Crops could not support the national programme beyond the December 2000 the CSAs would be changed on the basis of situation exist at that time and under the light of the above clauses.

6. Strengthening of Seed Production Facilities in Central and Northern Regions.

In recent times, especially the central and northern regions of Afghanistan have undergone frequent security collapses forced upon by complex internal strife. Unfortunately, due to ongoing drought and others negative climatic aberrations both regions are facing severe food deficits. The basic facilities created in the past for seed production, processing and storage were lost in the internal fighting.

Practically, normal operations remain suspended for quite some time. Various donors have shown interest in providing assistance to restart the production of seed locally. Both Mazar and Yakowlang seed production units are being strengthened to meet the minimum requirements of the programme. In consultation with Project Manager tractors, wheat threshers, vehicles, seed certification material and communication equipment are being despatched from other regions. The status of the seed programme as on 30-06-00 was as follows:

Table-8

Targets of Seed Procurement in Central and Northern Regions

S.No.	Place	Quantity already procured (MT)	Target of Procurement (MT)
1.	Mazar	150	250
2.	Kunduz	20	50
3.	Takhar	Nil	100
4.	Pulekhumri	80	150
5.	Bamyan/Yakawlang	Nil	400
Total		250	950

7. **Miscellaneous**

(I) Seed Review Group Meeting

FAO- Crops established a Seed Review Group (SRG) in 1995 to advise on all matters relating to seed sector and to co-ordinate the functioning of the agencies involved in seed activities in the country.

Donors, IPs, other concerned UN agencies and staff of the FAO-Crops are represented in the SRG. The participation is open to all concerned and usually by invitation.

The meeting held during the period under report was 9th in the series of meetings. Two meetings are convened every year i.e., at the start of the summer and winter crop seasons. It helps to review the progress of previous season and planning for the ensuing season. The 9th Meeting, which was held on 11-05-00, reviewed the progress of winter crop season 1999-2000 and approved the seed production plan of 2000 of the summer crops.

(II) Technical Team

Implementation of a successful programme without skilled and committed staff is impossible in a situation prevalent in Afghanistan. Fortunately, the seed programme has a motivated team of national and international experts. The composition of the present team is as follows:

S. No.	Name	Designation
1	Mr. Hans C. Brink	Programme Manager
2	Mr. A R Sinwari	NPPP (Seed)
3.	Mr. M. A. Aman	DO
4	Mr. Mir Shaifuddin Mirzad	DO
5.	Mr. Sayeed Mahboob	DO
6.	Mr. Ziauddin Paiman	DO
7.	Mr. NS Tunwar	Senior Technical Advisor (Seed)

(III) Implementing Partners

In most of the countries the farmers are serviced by a well-developed seed industry in the public or private sector or both. Unfortunately, in Afghanistan both sectors are non existent. Thus, this role is being performed mainly by FAO-crops through its IPs and by some NGOs also out side FAO-Crops programme but on a very limited scale. At present following IPs are co-operating under formal or informal contractual obligation:

Table- 9

Detail of the IPs

S. No.	Implementing Partner (IP)	Status
1	International Rescue Committee(IRC)	International NGO
2	Islamic Relief Agency(ISRA)	Do
3	Mercy Corp International(MCI)	Do
4	Solidaritie's	Do
5	Voluntary Agency for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan(VARA)	National NGO
6	Improved Seed Enterprise(ISE) , Pul-i-Khumri	Parastatal
7	Improved Seed Enterprise(ISE), Herat	Do
8	Improved Seed Enterprise(ISE), Kabul	Do
9	Improved Seed Enterprise(ISE), Kandahar	Do
10	Nangarhar Agriculture Development Authority(NADA), Jalalabad	Department of Agriculture
11	Bamyan & Yakawlang	Community
12	Mazar	Do
13	Farah	Do
14	Kundoz	Do
15	Takhar	Do
16	Badghais	Do
17	Ghor	Do
18	Bakwa	Shura
19	Khak-e-Safid	Do
20	Farah Center	Do
21	Balabuluk	Do
22	Pusht-e-Rud	Do
23	Punjwai	Do
24	Arghandab	Do
25	Dand	Do
26	Shega	Do

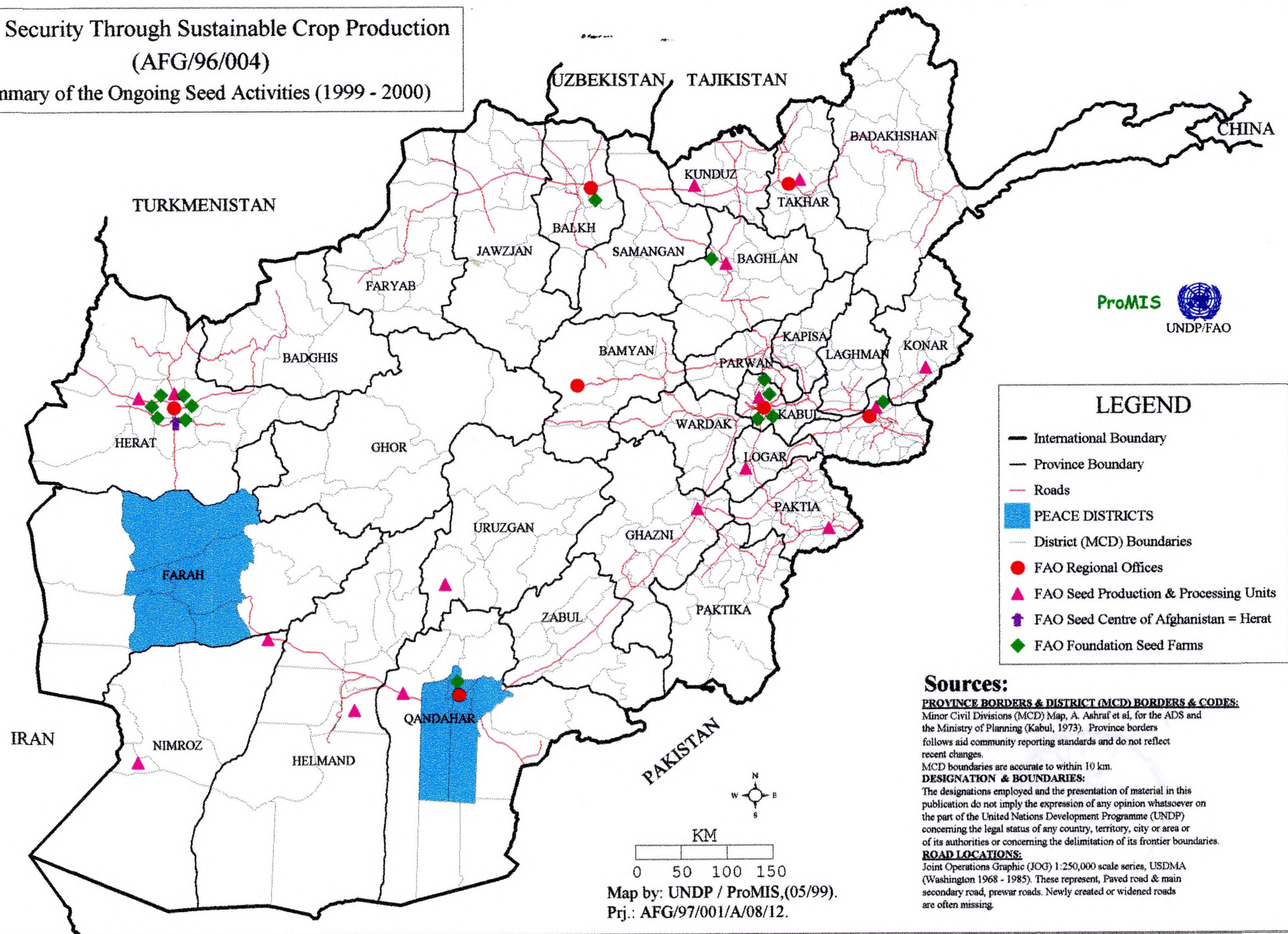
(IV) Leave

STA (Seed) availed the following Annual Leave during the period under report:

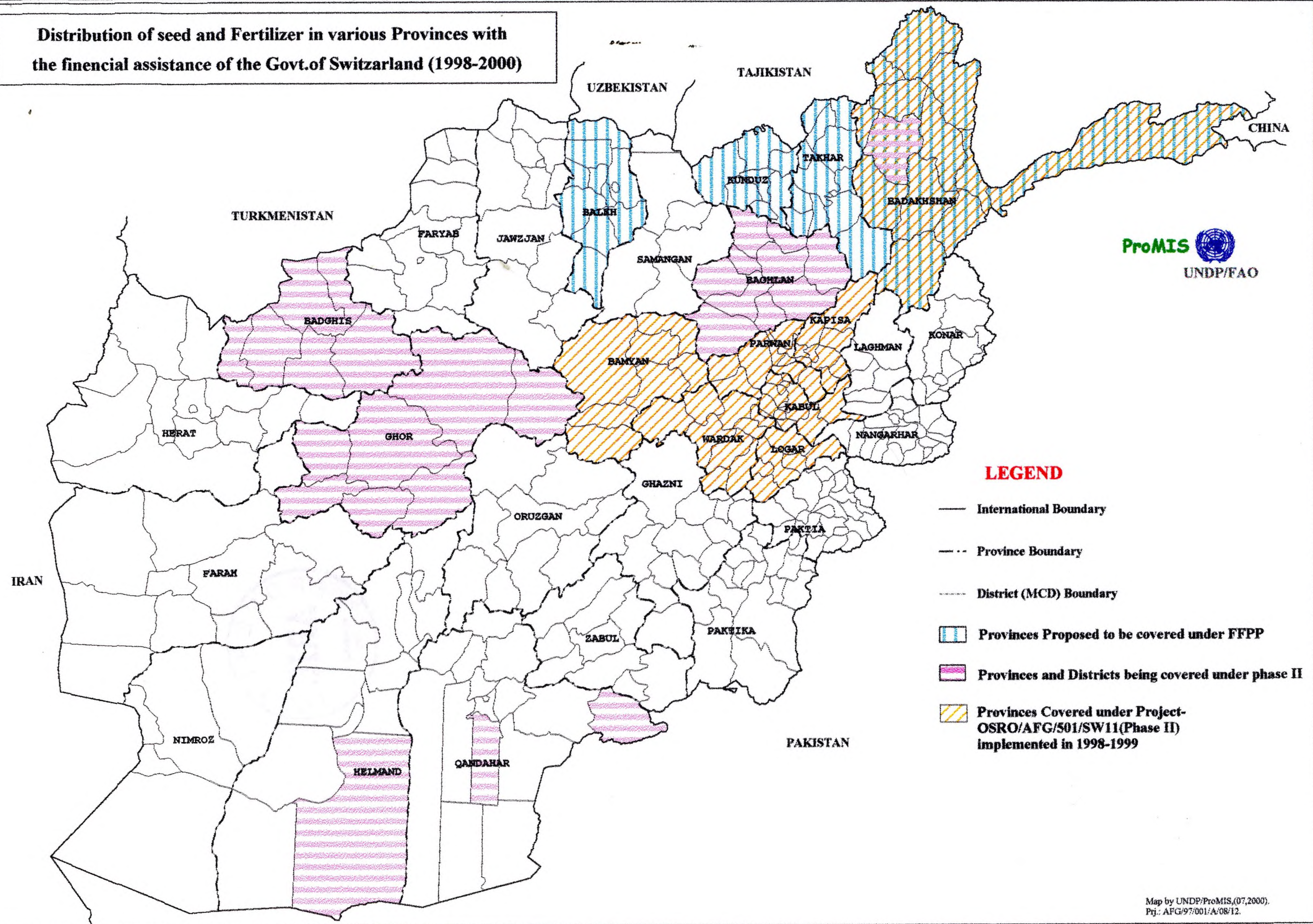
21-03-00 to-31-03-00

******

Annexure - I


Food Security Through Sustainable Crop Production
(AFG/96/004)
Summary of the Ongoing Seed Activities (1999 - 2000)
UZBEKISTAN
TAJIKISTAN
CHINA
TURKMENISTAN
IRAN
PAKISTAN
BADAKHSHAN
KUNDUZ
TAKHAR
BALKH
JAWZJAN
SAMANGAN
BAGHLAN
FARYAB
BADGHIS
BAMYAN
KAPISA
PARWAN
LAGHMAN
KONAR
HERAT
GHOR
WARDAK
KABUL
LOGAR
PAKTIA
URUZGAN
GHAZNI
FARAH
ZABUL
PAKTIKA
QANDAHAR
NIMROZ
HELMAND
ProMIS
UNDP/FAO
LEGEND
International Boundary
Province Boundary
Roads
PEACE DISTRICTS
District (MCD) Boundaries
FAO Regional Offices
FAO Seed Production & Processing Units
FAO Seed Centre of Afghanistan = Herat
FAO Foundation Seed Farms
KM
0 50 100 150
N
W
E
S
Map by: UNDP / ProMIS,(05/99).
Prj.: AFG/97/001/A/08/12.
Sources:
PROVINCE BORDERS & DISTRICT (MCD) BORDERS & CODES:
Minor Civil Divisions (MCD) Map, A. Ashraf et al, for the ADS and the Ministry of Planning (Kabul, 1973). Province borders follows aid community reporting standards and do not reflect recent changes.
MCD boundaries are accurate to within 10 km.
DESIGNATION & BOUNDARIES:
The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontier boundaries.
ROAD LOCATIONS:
Joint Operations Graphic (JOG) 1:250,000 scale series, USDMA (Washington 1968 - 1985). These represent, Paved road & main secondary road, prewar roads. Newly created or widened roads are often missing.

Annexure - II



Distribution of seed and Fertilizer in various Provinces with the finencial assistance of the Govt.of Switzarland (1998-2000)
UZBEKISTAN
TAJIKISTAN
CHINA
TURKMENISTAN
IRAN
PAKISTAN
BALKH
KUNDUZ
TAKHAR
BADAKHSHAN
FARYAB
JAWZJAN
SAMANGAN
BAGHLAN
BADGHIS
KAPISA
PARWAN
LAGHMAN
KONAR
BAMYAN
KABUL
HERAT
GHOR
NANGARHAR
WARDAK
LOGAR
GHAZNI
ORUZGAN
PAKTIA
FARAH
ZABUL
PAKTIKA
NIMROZ
HELMAND
QANDAHAR
ProMIS
UNDP/FAO
LEGEND
International Boundary
Province Boundary
District (MCD) Boundary
Provinces Proposed to be covered under FFPP
Provinces and Districts being covered under phase II
Provinces Covered under Project-OSRO/AFG/501/SW11(Phase II) implemented in 1998-1999
Map by UNDP/ProMIS,(07,2000).
Prj.: AFG/97/001/A/08/12.

Six Monthly Report- Seed Component Activities

01 January 2000 – 30 June 2000

Project = **Food Security Through Sustainable Crop Production (AFG/96/004) (FAO-Crops)**

Broad Objective- Peace through Productivity

1. Introduction

General Situation in Crop Sector.

Due to poor crop productivity (only 1.23 MT/ha for wheat in 1999), obsolete production system, and inputs starvation conditions, little or no support of governmental organizations, etc the agricultural production was already very fragile and now completely collapsed in various regions due to the onslaught of the drought. Afghanistan has been food deficit since 1979 and now, food security is further seriously threatened. Wheat is the main cereal crop and occupies 81% area of the total area under cereals. Due to unprecedented drought the rainfed wheat crop which is more than 36.5% of the total wheat area is already lost and significant reduction in the production from irrigated wheat crop is feared. When food security is threatened at such a large scale the portion of production required to be preserved as seed for planting next crop is also used as food in a near starvation situation. Shortage of seed may prolong the food insecurity further even if next year happen to be a normal year without any threat of drought or any other natural calamity. Seed is the basic input and its shortage may cause major problem.

Drought and its Effect on Seed and Other Agricultural Inputs

The wheat crop, which occupies more than 81% of the total cereal area has suffered most and damage caused to the seed both quantitywise and qualitywise is irreversible. Similarly the target of rice seed production has to be reduced substantially and to some extant of maize and pulses due to shortage of irrigation water. The seed sector situation was analyzed in detail in the 9th Seed Review Group (SRG) meeting held in May 2000 and also brought into the notice of various forums constituted under UN system to monitor and review the drought. The following was highlighted:

- A likely famine of seed.
- Shortage of quality fertilizer and other inputs due to low purchase power of the draught hit farmers.

- Food security may further deteriorate. Seed and Food securities are tightly inter linked and are not separable in a country where over 80% of the population lives in rural areas, and most of them make their living from agriculture.

It may result in:

(a) A large area might remain unsown due to shortage of seed.

(b) Considerable area would be planted using food grain as seed resulting into total crop failure or poor crop productivity.

© Increase in Opium Poppy cultivation as substitute to wheat crop. It requires only 3.5-kg seed/ha while wheat needs 125-150kg/ha.

(d) Sale of poor quality fertilizers to exploit the inputs shortage.

Looking to the ground realities, an effective seed security is urgently essential and it must rally substantially around the local production. It will be difficult to procure, at a large-scale, seed from the immediate neighborhood for various reasons.

2. Seed Production and Distribution

Though the major responsibility of the Seed Component of the AFG/96/004 is to implement the programme in PEACE Initiative districts to achieve specified objectives but at the same time it has been encouraged to operate at national level also to increase the food production. Due to financial support received from various donors and UNDP the seed production and processing units have been established almost all over the country. (Annex-I).

(I) PEACE Programme

The plans and targets proposed at the beginning of the crop season were revised to meet the challenge posed by the drought. The status of the seed production was evaluated in meetings held at regional and national levels. A seed review meeting was held with District Shura and UN-OPS to increase the procurement of the wheat seed from the less affected pockets of the PEACE districts.

FRAH

A workshop was held on June 9-11, 2000 to discuss the procurement of the wheat seed and establishing the District Seed Committees. UNOPS, FAO/Crops and Shura Chiefs of all PEACE districts of Farah province attended the workshop. The representatives of the PEACE districts described the effect of drought in detail and its effect on the production of wheat. They explained that

drought has affected the wheat seed production equally and it would be difficult to procure the targeted quantity. However, efforts will be made to procure the wheat seed as much as it could collect from the inspected seed crops. The following table shows the target of the seed procurement and likely quantity to be procured and deficit:

Table – 1

Targets and Likely Quantity of Wheat Seed to be Procured in Frah

District	*Target (MT)*	*QTY of Seed Available for Procurement (MT)*	*Deficit (MT)*
Shindand	90	62	28
Khak-i-Safed	70	30	40
Balabuluk	100	66	34
Bakwa	100	90	20
Farah Center	100	26	74
Pusht-i-Rud	100	10	90
TOTAL	**560**	**274**	**286**

The perusal of the above Table will show that only 274 MT seed is likely to be procured against the target of 560 MT. The *Shura* has requested the FAO/Crops to assist them in procuring the balance quantity of seed from Herat or other divisions against cash. This is because the demand of seed is likely to be very high in Farah division due to the loss of rainfed and irrigated wheat crop. FAO/Crops assured that efforts would be made to locate the additional quantity from the contract seed growers whose fields were found conforming to the set standards. However, chances of finding sizable quantities are remote.

KANADHAR

Kanadhar has been hit hardest by the drought among all regions. In most of the PEACE districts the wheat crop either dried completely or has produced light and shriveled seed, which are unfit for procurement. The latest review shows the situation vis-a-vis targets as follows:

Table – 2

Targets and Likely Quantity of Wheat Seed to be procured in Kanadhar

District	Target (MT)	QTY of Seed Available for Procurement (MT)	Deficit (MT)
Dand	30.00	24.00	-6.00
Daman	15.00	00.00	-15.00
Arghandab	60.00	00.00	-60.00
Panjwai	80.00	18.00	-62.00
Shiga	6.00	00.00	-6.00
	191.00	**42.00**	**-149.00**

(II) **National Programme**

The status of national programme was reviewed in a Seed Review Group (SRG) meeting held on 11-05-00. The meeting was attended by the IPs, donors, NPPPs, other UN agencies and UNDP. The SRG was unanimous in realizing the shortage of seed and its direct effect on food security. Participants mentioned that when food security is threatened at such a large scale the portion reserved for seed for planting next crop is also used as food in a near starvation situation. In most cases harvest from poor and wilted crop is not fit for seed. Wheat quality in drought affected areas is poor, smut infection is high and in fact all harvested wheat is not of seed quality. This situation may prolong the food insecurity in 2001 and beyond even if next year happen to be a normal year without any threat of drought or any other natural calamity because:

- A famine of seed.
- Shortage of quality fertilizer and other inputs due to low purchase power of the draught hit farmers.

Seed and Food securities are tightly interlinked and are not separable in a country where over 80% of the population live in rural areas, and most of them make their living from agriculture.

It may result in:

(1) A large area might remain unsown due to shortage of seed.

(2) Considerable area would be planted using food grain completely unfit for seeds thus resulting into poor crop productivity or total crop failure.

(3) Increase in Opium Poppy cultivation as substitute to wheat crop. It requires only 3.5-kg seed/ha while wheat needs 125-150kg/ha and usually supplied by the Drug lords free of cost along with advance.

(4) Sale of poor quality fertilizers to exploit the inputs shortage.

Looking to the ground realities, an effective seed security is urgently essential and it must rally substantially around the local production. It will be difficult to procure, at a large-scale, seed from the immediate neighborhood for various reasons. The SRG recommended the following strategy to mitigate the effect of drought:

(I) Increase the current procurement target of wheat seed from 3000 MT to 5000 MT.

(II) Emergency procurement of 2000-3000 MT additional quantity from standing wheat crop of known pedigree after quick field inspection and identification.

(III) Procurement of 5,000 MT each DAP and Urea fertilizers from revolving funds to be distributed as a package with the additionally procured seed.

(IV) Creation of a 300-500 MT Emergency (buffer) seed stock of improved and adapted varieties to meet such eventualities in future.

(V) Import of seed of tested and tried varieties from neighboring countries if funds and seeds are available.

Winter Crop Seed Production Programme

The revised targets of Quality declared wheat and barley seeds to be procured under Food-for-seed programme by various agencies are as follows:

Table-3

Wheat and Barley Seeds to be Procured under Food-for-seed Scheme

S.No	IP	Quantity of Wheat and Barley Seed to be Procured (MT)
1	IRC	350
2	ISRA-Kunar	250
	ISRA-Kabul	450
3	MCI Dehrawood	150
	MCI Maywand (wheat, Barley)	250 5
	MCI Bosh (Wheat, Barley)	200 5
4	Solidarities Bamyan	150
5	VARA Dilaram Barley	600 5
6	ISE, Pulekhmri	150
7	ISE Heart	300
8	ISE Kabul	200
9	ISE Kandahar	50
10	NADA Jalalabad	150

11	Community Bamyan & Yakulang	250
12	Community Mazar	250

S.No	IP	Quantity of Wheat & Barley Seed to be Procured (MT)
13	Community Khunduz	50
14	Community Takhar	100
15	Community Badghis	50
16	Community, Frah	100
16	Community Ghor	50
TOTAL	WHEAT BARLEY	4100 15
G. TOTAL		**4115**

Beside Quality declared wheat seed to be procured by Shura and under FSF scheme more than 350 MT Foundation seed and 62 MT Breeder seed has been produced at Foundation Seed Units (FSU) and varietal seed testing stations.

Summer Crop Seed Production Programme

Due to drought and substantial reduction in irrigation water availability has affected the ability of the seed producers to produce summer crop seeds. Accordingly, production programme has been reduced considerably in comparison to the previous years. The following targets have been fixed:

Table-4

Agency-Wise QDS Production Target of Summer Crops (2000)

Crop/Variety	Solidarities	MCI	VARA	IRC	ISRA	PEACE	ISE
MAIZE							
Sarhad Yellow	10	100	12	10	40	5	50
Ganesh	00	00			00	00	00
Pahari	00	00		10	00	00	00
Naviyot	00	00	30		50	10	00
Ageti-76	00	00		50	50	00	00
Azam	00	00			00	00	00
Shaheen	00	50	8		25	00	00
EV-II	00	00		10	25	00	00
RICE							
B-385		20			10	3	10
JPO-5		10		20	10	2	00
Garma Bara						00	00
Swat-1					20	00	00
SW-2					20	00	00
Surkh Taveel						00	00
Surkh Mutavaset						00	00
RP-1670						00	100
New Cultivars (Identified by CI)						00	20
GREEN GRAM							
Nayab-92	00	30	15	10	25	25	20
Local				00			
BLACK GRAM							
PARC	00	00		00	00	5	5
Local	00	15	10.00	00			00
TOTAL	10	225	75.00	110	275	50	205

More than 950 Mt rice, maize and pulses seed is likely to be produced.

Farmers to Farmers Exchange

This is a traditional method wherein farmers obtain their requirements from their neighbours either on cash payments or on exchange basis. Project encourages this practice. This is because most farmers search continuously for better technologies. In their quest they exchange seed. This is the cheaper and faster way to spread the seed but in this way, seeds travel only over short distance. This is the reason that area around seed production units has been saturated with improved varieties. It has created food security at micro level. During 1999-2000 approximately following quantity of seed is likely to be distributed under farmers to farmers scheme promoted by the FAO-Crops.

Table- 5

Distribution of Seed under Farmers to Farmers Exchange Programme

Crop	Qty. (MT)
Wheat	3,500
Barley	50
Rice	200
Maize	1,500
Pulses	550
Total	5,800

3. **Distribution of the Maize and Green gram Seeds in Badghis and Gramser with the Financial Assistance of the Government of Switzerland.**

Recently, a cost sharing agreement has been signed between the UNDP and the Government of Switzerland to implement the project -Distribution of Quality Seed of Improved Varieties and Fertilizer in Food Deficit Areas (Phase II). The project is continuation of the valuable assistance of the Govt of Switzerland to increase food production in Afghanistan. Another project- Family Food Production Programme (FFPP) is under active consideration of the Govt. of Switzerland.
The areas received quality seed under Phase-I and identified for the future assistance could be seen in Annex-II.



UNDP

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE CROP PRODUCTION
(AFG/96/004)



Technical Report
Seed Component Activities
(January 2000 - June 2000)

N. S. Tunwar
STA (Seed)
Islamabad

July, 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES AND CHARTS